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Export Certification  
Manual

# Introduction

## *Purpose*

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The Export Certification Manual (ECM) is a reference to be used when inspecting and certifying plants and plant products offered for export and when issuing export certificates.

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## Basic Policy

The United States does not require phytosanitary export certification but provides this service for eligible plants and plant products, if requested. Plant Protection and Quarantine (PPQ) is the unit within the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) that serves to assist exporters in meeting the plant quarantine import requirements of foreign countries. As part of this service, PPQ's responsibility includes the following:

- ◆ Maintain current information on the plant quarantine import requirements of foreign countries
- ◆ Analyze the information, prepare summaries of the import requirements based on the information, and make the summaries available to Federal, State, and county Authorized Certification Officials (ACO's); and other interested parties
- ◆ Inspect domestic plants and plant products offered for export
- ◆ Certify those shipments that meet the import requirements of the foreign country
- ◆ Monitor the issuance of export certificates to ensure their accuracy
- ◆ When possible, assist U.S. exporters if their **certified** shipments are held at destination, and advise U.S. exporters with shipments that are not certified
- ◆ Assist in certifying plants or plant products of foreign origin that have been legally imported into the United States and are being reexported

- ◆ Monitor other program activities to ensure credibility of the Export Certification Program
- ◆ Ensure that only authorized inspectors or certification officials inspect and certify the phytosanitary conditions of plants and plant products offered for export

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## Domestic Products

Domestic products are those plants and unprocessed or unmanufactured plant products grown or produced in the United States, its possessions, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Federal Phytosanitary Certificates (FPC's), PPQ Form 577, are authorized for domestic plants and plant products.

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## Processed Products

Processed products are plant products processed or manufactured to the degree that they are unlikely to harbor injurious pests. Processed products are **not** eligible for certification with the Phytosanitary Certificate (FPC), PPQ Form 577 or PPQ Form 579, even when the importing country specifically requires a Phytosanitary Certificate; however, the Export Certificate, Processed Plant Products (PPC), PPQ Form 578, may be issued **for only those processed products that are specified in EXCERPT** as eligible for PPQ Form 578. The intended purpose of the PPC is to assist U.S. exporters whose shipments may be placed in jeopardy if such a document is not issued. The PPC, PPQ Form 578, and the FPC, PPQ Form 577, must not be issued for products that are strictly specified in EXCERPT as ineligible processed products.

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## Foreign Products

Foreign products are plants and plant products that have **officially entered** U.S. commerce but were grown or produced in countries other than the United States, its possessions, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. Foreign products are not eligible for an FPC but may be certified for reexport with PPQ Form 579.

Reexport certification can be based on a combination of the following:

- ◆ An original phytosanitary certificate from the country of origin
- ◆ Plants or plant products being segregated and their identity is maintained while kept under suitable safeguards to prevent the risk of infestation or infection while in the United States
- ◆ An additional inspection or test

Also, the foreign products should meet the import requirements of the importing country. Foreign products that are prohibited entry by the importing country cannot be certified for reexport. However, foreign products that apparently do not meet the import requirements of the importing country (e.g., growing season inspection, virus indexing, freedom from specified pests at the production area, etc.) may be certified for reexport even though the requirements are not stated on the phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin.<sup>1</sup> In such cases, final judgment of enterability will be the responsibility of the importing country. An additional declaration may be placed on the reexport certificate to indicate that the shipment met the entry requirements of the United States or that the United States does not require phytosanitary certification for the entry of the products. See EXCERPT for individual country requirements).

### Transiting Foreign Products:

Foreign products that are **transiting** the United States under Customs' bond are **not** eligible for reexport certification, or processed product certification.

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## Prohibited Products

Plants and unprocessed or unmanufactured plant products listed in an export summary as being prohibited entry by the importing country are ineligible for phytosanitary certification, unless an import permit or other special authorization is provided from the plant protection service of the importing country.

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<sup>1</sup> EXCEPTIONS: Do not issue a reexport certificate for foreign products to Brazil or Columbia if the foreign products do not meet these countries' specified requirements. If a phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin is not available, or the phytosanitary certificate issued by the country of origin does not state Brazil or Columbia's requirements for growing season inspection, virus indexing, freedom from specified pests at the production area, etc., do not issue the reexport certificate. It is acceptable to issue a reexport certificate if additional testing or treatment is required, and the testing or treatment is done in the United States. In this case, document the testing or treatment on the reexport certificate.

Currently, only Brazil and Columbia have requested that reexport certificates not be issued unless the foreign product meets their specified requirements. If additional countries notify APHIS with this request, that information will become part of that country's summary in EXCERPT, and will be found in General Information/Definition of Terms/Reexport Certificate.

